Insecurity and Political Conflicts: Appraisal of Challenges to Africa's Development in the Twenty-First Century

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Abstract

Development as a process of progressive change is an essential aspect of statecraft to improve the fortune of the state and socio-economic well-being of the citizens. This multifaceted approach towards upliftment of humanity in both material production and scientific (inquiry for sustainable) knowledge has continuously eluded Africa despite her vast human and material resources. The primary objective of the study is to interrogate the nexus between political conflicts/insecurity and absence of meaningful development in African states. The theoretical framework adopted for analysis is conflict cum fragility theory. The study adopted qualitative research methods in which secondary data were collected from documentary sources. The study identifies poor democratic culture, corruption, lack of action-centered leadership, divisive political elites, abject poverty, inability to manage multi-ethnic state with equity, filthy political environment, ill-conceived political orientation, unhealthy ethnic and political competition, political conflicts and insurgency as bane to Africa's development. The study recommends instituting good governance and efficient political institutions as well as action-centered leadership based on equity and fairness in resource allocation in a multi-ethnic state as the panacea for overcoming Nigeria's numerous security and development challenges.

Introduction

Africa has continually been a turbulent continent confronted by various forms of political conflict and insecurity challenges in different parts of the continent. As a result of this, peace and security, which are very important ingredients for development have continued to elude the continent. This turbulent situation made Africa a continent of paradox, highly synonymous with indices of underdevelopment and here people live in abject poverty, unemployment and poor technological development. Nevertheless, the continent is richly endowed with both human and natural resources, which if effectively harnessed and efficiently utilized can propel the continent to greatness and provide the much-anticipated sustainable development in different African states.

However, there exists identified clogs which are directly or indirectly holding back the wheels of Africa's development. This noticeable gap between Africa's potentials and the actual development experiences of most African states has attracted the attention of scholars and generated serious academic discourse (see Onimode, 2000); Rodney, 1972). Rodney, for instance, cogently argued that development in Europe is not so much the result of efficient production techniques and investment, rather it is due to gamut of factors such as unequal exchange, colonialism and imperialism, all of which combined to stunt the development of the African continent. He argued that European penetration of Africa led to the forceful

incorporation of the continent into the global capitalist system and so provided opportunities for the exploitation of the continent both directly and indirectly, leading to the thwarting Africa's development. This group of scholars further argued that Africa's development was inhibited by intrusion of slavery, colonial exploitation and disarticulation of traditional economy, vocational training and technological base which could have transformed the continent progressively. They further contend that Africa's continuous adherence to global capitalism where Africans cannot effectively determine price(s) of its produce and are permanently compartmentalized into primary produce economy, where Africans is erroneously made to believe in technological transfer rather than technological innovation, where wrong economic ideas and monetary policy offered leads to debt peonage, no meaningful development will ever come to the continent of Africa (Rodney, 1972; Ake, 1988; Onimode, 1981). While these theoretical abstractions about development and dearth of development in Africa are supported by verifiable empirical facts, there exist emerging new and more precarious factors in the continent, which tend to compound the problem of Africa's development. These include, but are not limited to, political conflicts and widespread insecurity in much of Africa. In this paper, we examine the impact of these emerging threats to Africa's development in the twenty first century.

Theoretical Framework:

Conflict in human society has long tradition that dates back to earliest historical account and writing of Thucydides, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Weber, Rousseau etc. As social animals, human beings co-exist and interrelate in the community, society and state which naturally brings about conflicts due to human differences, level of reasoning, understanding and temperament that generate controversies/disagreements over issues that ought to bond people together such as economy, politics, resources, Conflict is inevitable in the process of authoritative allocation of values, this makes conflict unavoidable for human beings living in a community, society and state. etc. Conflict theory according to Kriesberg (1996:123) seeks to explain how social structure changes and how social order is maintained despite great inequalities. Neil (1999) deduced that state, society and organizations and other social systems are arena for personal and group conflicts. Briggs (1997:136), using Boulding's conflict theory, inferred that "conflict is a situation of competition in which the parties are aware of the incompatibility of potential future position and in which each party wishes to occupy a position that is incompatible with the wishes of others".

There are many strands of the conflict theory, one of which is the structural conflict theory. It addresses the reactions of individuals, groups, institutions, cultures and society to change. It argues that conflicts originate from exploitative and unjust nature of human society where one class dominates due to structural organization of the society. Political conflicts can emanate from weakness of human nature of continuous selfish quest for political power in a competitive party politics where political elites use foul/unconstitutional means to attain and retain power for their selfish interest of continuous self-preservation. In line with this postulation, the frustration-aggression theory deduced that conflicts stem from inability of individuals to fulfill their needs which may be political aspiration. Frustration comes when candid and genuine desires are denied due to the nature of state, which permits manipulation

of state institutions and coercive use of power against real and perceived strong opponents. Also, the physiological model aspect of conflict theory argues that the tendency for individuals to be aggressive is silent and idle until certain forces which may be external or internal stimulate it. The major factors that activate aggressive behavior in people, according to this strand of conflict theory, is the external environment and human nature that are beyond individual control.

Similarly, the economic strand of conflict theory believes that occurrence of conflict has economic undertone. Accordingly, it is economic benefits to be derived that precipitate people's participation in conflicts. Under this framework, it was the lure of war economy and illegal exploitation of mineral resources that led to pathological conflict in Democratic Republic of Congo, Sierra Leone and Libya (Oche, 2002). It is thus argued that the African continent remains the major export market for military hardware and a place for testing the efficacy of newly produced arms defects of old ones are detected and needed to be improved upon. It also provides fat and handsome rewards for arms merchants both licensed and illegal ones. As demands for arms increase, more ammunitions are produced, and both producers and marketers continue to smile to the bank while millions of lives are wasted.

Also, the fragility theory deduced that a functioning and legitimate state is a precondition for re-establishing peace, security, social order, democratic governance and development. A fragile state is one that is unable to effectively respond to the challenge of governance and security within its geographical territories. To Collmer (2009), fragility is the fundamental failure of state to perform its statutory functions necessary to meet citizens' basic aspiration and needs (providing security, law and order) that can engineer development to produce economic materials to improve peoples' standard of living. State fragility increases the likelihood of criminal violence (like terrorist attacks and ethnic militia leading to ethnic clashes/cleansing and insurgency), which further weakens the state's authority and potentials for effective governance (Rotberg, 2003) cited in Ndukwe, et al (2018, p.34). Fragile states are usually associated with tensed, deeply conflictual and dangerous warring factions which often lead to breakdown of law and order, with the attendant human and economic costs that disrupt productive human activities to cause underutilization of resources and loss of jobs. This constitutes a great threat to both regional and global security, especially because impact of political conflicts not only weakens the state institutions, but are felt beyond state of inception (Ndukwe, et al, 2018).

The relevance of the conflict theory as a framework of analysis inheres in its inference that legitimacy, peace, security law and order are bases of development. Accordingly, the main reason why development eludes and may continue to elude many African states is the presence of protracted political conflicts and insecurity that pervade the continent. Insecurity and political conflicts are reasons why majority of states in the continent are fragile and transforming to failed states, which is a signpost of development somersaults. Both fragile and failed states are incapable of holistic development, because as legitimacy declines and law and order break down, no meaningful development plans can be carried out. Prominent scholars of this theory are Collmer, Kaplan and Rotberg. For instance, Political conflicts and insecurity has balkanized Nigeria's prospect of nation-building and national integration that would have fast-tracked development in the country. The little gain made by

the country immediately after independence was shattered by the inglorious civil war of which the country is yet to fully recover from.

Development and Peace a Contextual Analysis

Development is the improvement in the living conditions and wellbeing of people through their ability to improve material production for humanity as a result of advancement in machine tools for domestic, industrial and agricultural purposes. Development as a multifaceted approach and essential aspect of human life is dynamic and man-stimulated. It involves acquisition of new and relevant ideas, skills, drive, propensities, preferences, predispositions and psychic motor which are directed towards transformation of the existential and material conditions of a given people. Dynamism facilitates change from deficient past to satisfying present time (Okolie, 2018). Thus, existence of progress subsequently translates into improvement in man's potentials and capabilities to eliminate or reduce poverty, inequality, unemployment and enhancement of life sustenance, self-esteem, and value orientations, all these are impossible in an environment devoid of peace and security. But, despite essential nature of peace and development to man, there are certain variable factors that can be inimical to the emergence of evolution of human society from an unsatisfactory level to a satisfactory one. Development as a human-stimulated multidimensional approach towards elevating humanity in material production and scientific knowledge requires concerted human efforts to organize, cooperate, synergize in a secured state where law and order are maintained. Because lawless and unsecured states create anxiety and unpredictability that prevent planning and harmonization of resources for the benefit of humanity. Existence of development somersaults being experienced in the continent of Africa in the twenty-first Century is due partly to politics, political conflicts and insecurity. Therefore, as man can facilitate development, man can also be inimical to development by initiating and maintaining issues that can undermine development. Thus, human deterministic role in stimulating development can only occur in an atmosphere of peace and order, where there is security and right orientation of human resource in the state (Todaro, 1992).

Development hinges on certain core variables which are: good and action-centered *leadership* (Libya/Singapore), *human resources* (Japan as case study), *serene/stable political environment* (Canada/Australia), *capital production*, a *well-thought-out resources allocation* to all sectors, in which each segment greatly feel the impact of financial outreach to each constituent members of the state; *Human resource* constitute the building block on which development is established and build on. Effective and efficient human resource in a stable polity enable and fast track all round sustainable development in a state. *Leadership* is the coordinator that harness both human and material resources for effective developmental purposes and usage. Action-centered leadership that understands the needs of the complex nature of present modern African states, how to equitably identify and resolve inequalities and differences without causing unhealthy ethnic political rivalry that can degenerate into fratricidal political conflicts. Leadership also plans, organizes, provides and ensures that the society is adequately and equitably catered for, to enhance cooperation needed for societal development. Committed and well-motivated citizenry, equipped with adequate knowledge,

training and enabling logistics transform their states from informed past unconstructiveness to the present positivity and a better future Olakoju (2014). *Serene and secured political environment* where there are effective and efficient functioning of law and order. Stable polity and good political system are central to any meaningful development in a state. Peace, security and orderliness are crucial to human resource development, planning and harnessing of material resources for development. Absence of these is an impediment to holistic development in society. Existence of perennial political conflicts that accentuate insecurity in a state not only prevent and retard development, it destroys little success made.

However, of all these core factors, a secured and stable polity with a well-maintained law and order rank highest because development requires serene and peaceful environment to train and impart knowledge, these trainings and imparted knowledge can only transform to technological innovations and appliances in an orderly political environment.

Peace is often conceptualized as the absence of violence in all forms and non-violent interaction among people. It focuses on establishing harmonious living coexistence by people of different backgrounds so that they can contribute meaningfully to the realization of sustainable development in the state (Njageh, 2014). Peace is also seen as the absolute maintenance of an orderly and just society (Cortright (2009) cited in Nwaka (2014:26). Galtung (1969) regards positive peace as a social condition in which there is neither direct physical nor structural violence while Huntington (1968) argued that peace is institutionalization of structures which acquire value and stability. According to him, it is when these established structures perform their functions adequately that there could be said to be peace and order in the society. But absence of such institutionalized structure creates room for the primacy for political conflict and insecurity (Nwaka, 2014). African politics is full of political crises and insecurity. Since early 1970s and for over two decades there seems to be a growing conflict jinx plaguing the African continent. Flashpoints of political, ethnic confrontations and social upheavals have emerged with serious and devastating consequences in human and material loses, resulting in economic dislocation of affected member states within the continent. Nigeria witnessed a-three-year civil war from 1967-1970 that wiped away almost one million people (Alozieuwa, 2010:61), Liberia from 1990-1997, Sierra Leone between 1997-2006; Cote d'Ívoire 2002-2008; the Great Lake Region starting with Congo crisis in 1962, Uganda 1971-1999, Burundi 1993-2000, Rwanda 1994-2000, Sudan 1956-2005, Somalia 1976-2011, etc. There has been politically-motivated bloodletting in Togo, destabilizing Tuareg nationalism in Mali and Niger, secessionist tendencies in Casamance in Senegal, rebel versus government forces in Sierra Leone. Cote d'Ivoire engaged in North/South dichotomy due to imperial presidency. Guinea Bissau went through a violent governmental change and serious political tumoil after the coup. Niger was also in turmoil due to Mamadou Tandja's infamous Constitution manipulation to retain power (Alozieuwa, 2010:62).

Nigeria spent over $350 dollars on political crises that rocked Liberia and Sierra Leone in the 1990s while Guinea Bissau, which has 25% of world's reserve of bauxite apart from diamond, gold, iron, nickel, yet peace eludes the polity, Alozieuwa, (2010). Guinea almost became a "failed state" due to economic mismanagement that caused tension and widespread

disaffection in the country after all developmental indices in the country showed 'fundamental decrepitude. Sudan has been fighting intrastate political conflicts since 1952 and the crisis refuses to abate despite the division of the country into two, Angola gained global remarkable place among the comity of poorest states due to protracted intrastate conflicts. Somalia remained in the depth of undeveloped states, a fractured and failed state since the demise of Said Barre in 2001 and no functioning government exist or is in sight in the state despite its strategic location. Chad had fought a bitter civil war to the extent that virtually all notable clans have storage for cache of arms to fall back on yet, the country cannot boast of any meaning planning to have holistic development due to recurring political conflicts and widespread insecurity. Congo DR started its own political conflicts immediately after her independence in 1962 and the psychosis is still raging. Lately, the Arab Spring swept through North African states of Tunisia, Libya and Egypt, which seriously threatened the relative stability these states had enjoyed when compared to their other African neighbours.

Nexus between political conflicts and development

On attainment of independence most African states were confronted with identifying what real development entails and the determinants of development. Thus, immediately after independence many African states concentrated mainly on determinants of development handed down to them by their former colonial masters, the World Bank and their ideological European friends (Dunmoye, 2018). Africa is blessed with global central location that made it accessible by sea from Asia, Europe and America. The continent also occupies strategic global importance due to precious mineral resources domiciled in Africa (Nkrumah, 1974; Meredith, 2006; Bakut, 2014). Africa has the largest global deposit of many mineral resources. The DRC and Zambia alone possess 50% of the World cobalt reserve, Zimbabwe and South Africa possess 98% of the world chrome reserves. South Africa has 90% of the platinum metal. The Gulf of Guinea ecosystem host the rainforest that accounts for much of oxygen generating source of the globe. DRC is the second largest producer of Diamond and Columbine-tantalite, Chad and Niger possess the largest reserves of uranium. Angola, Ghana, Sierra Leone and Liberia are major producers of gold and diamond. The Congo Basin possesses the World's Second Largest reserve of rain forest and a diverse and colorful habitat. The current flow of River Congo is useful for generating electricity to serve Northern and Southern parts Africa. Cote d'Ivoire is the World's largest producer of cocoa and the second largest producer of coffee, while Senegal is fast becoming major tourist attraction to Europeans and Americans. Meanwhile, the continent is blessed with all-year round arable land that can facilitate large scale/commercial agriculture for the production of raw materials for manufacturing industries. Moreover, there is presence of good weather condition that can be tapped for effective domestic and commercial usage. There also exists large expanse of water body that surrounds the African continent for fishing, maritime, scientific research and hydropower supply, while abundant ocean winds can be used for power generation to combat shortage from hydropower supply. The rain forest is endowed with trees for lumbering industry and wildlife games, the savannah provides natural grazing for herdsmen. And to crown it all, the continent boasts of abundance of able-bodied human resource, which, if adequately trained, can turn around the fortune African nations for better. However, despite

the abundance of potential capabilities in Africa, political conflicts and insecurity caused underutilization of these resources.

It is common knowledge that Africa is ensnared in a never-ending cycle of political conflicts induced insecurity (Nwede & Alegu, 2010). This made the continent to project a catalogue of scaring labels as the headquarters for the sales of arms and ammunitions, hosts the global most volatile states and hotspots (Somalia, Congo DR and Libya), accommodating the most prominent and prolonged fratricidal wars (Sudan and Congo DR) witnesses the most dreadful intrastate conflicts in Rwanda(Hutu-Tutsi) and Sudan where Janjaweed kills with impunity, and has produced some of the most dreadful global extremist terrorist groups (al-Qaeda in Maghreb in Mali, al Shabab in Kenya and Boko Haram in Nigeria). The continent hosts fifty-two modern states and there has never been any free period in African continent where all the 52 states can be totally absolved from political conflicts and insecurity. Most of the states are riddled with fratricidal conflicts that cause fragile statehood, weak political institutions, partial political authority to govern which affects political stability of individual African states. Nearly all states in the continent are involved in intrastate political squabbles from Senegal to Somalia, and from Sudan to Angola. While Morocco, the only probable exemption is busy fighting imperial war to dominate Sahara Arab Democratic Republic. This made Beissinger (2012) posit that civil strife are longer new to post-colonial African states. Perhaps what is new in the recent time is the security challenges thrown at the state and citizenry in form of the erosion of their daily life survival in terms of loss of jobs and source of income, health and environmental insecurity from mines laid in strategic places and health hazard of explosive devices. Today Africans are battling with 'fear of change in character of insurgency from different political conflicts and insecurity in the continent. Nwede and Alegu (2010) argues that across the length and breadth of Africa, there has been a transformation from civil wars to insurgencies. According to William (2013 cited in Nwede & Alegu (2018, p.88), violent conflicts and powerful armed insurgency from non-state actors remain defining priorities in the 21st Century Africa (. Aapenguo (2010) noted that from late 1980s till present time, there had been a near collapse, decline or complete loss of a governing infrastructure in many of the African states from the North to the South and from the East to the West of the continent and rather than ending, the civil strife had continued to multiply.

Scholars like Dudley (1992), Ake (1984), Onimode (1982), and Albert (2016) have identified political instability that emanates from perennial violent conflicts and insecurity as the major factor that have constrained Africa's quest for socio-economic advancement. Tenuche (2018) explained that political conflicts and insecurity induced political instability that manifested in the form of persistent system disruptive actions that placed excessive stress on the political system. This undue stress on the political system prevents or retards the emergence of any purposeful development plans and activities. Political conflicts and insecurity affect socio-economic advancement because instability, political conflicts and insecurity negatively affect economic growth and investment which are vital to meaningful development (Barro (1991) cited in Okechukwu (2018, p.133). Similarly, in conflict riddled state, property rights are not enforced due to its politically unstable environment. Put differently, Butkiewicz and Yanikkaya (2005) argued that political conflicts and insecurity polarized the people and made them to adopt inefficient or worse policies, inefficient tax system, higher recurrent

expenditure that induced large external debt that led to debt peonage. Ong'áyo (2008) deduced that political conflicts, insecurity and instability is directly related to the massive exodus and migration out of Africa and is implicated in the development question in the continent. Blanco & Grier (2007) cited in Okechukwu (2018, p.134) deduced that political conflicts and insecurity hinder economic development through its effects on the accumulation of physical and human capital. To Berthelemy et al (2002) existence of political conflicts and insecurity has direct negative impact on accumulation of private investment.

How Political Conflicts and Insecurity affects Africa's development

War Economy: Although, Africa produces the largest number of mineral resources for global usage, political conflicts and insecurity prevents value addition to these raw materials which enable Africa determine the forces of demand and supply as well as control its global price (Nkrumah, 1974). Protracted political conflicts and insecurity have turned the existence of abundant mineral resources to nightmares for most African states as warlords turned the extraction and sales of the resources to war economy (Oche, 2002). To realize war economy, warlords, insurgent groups and ethnic militias encourage continuous fighting to dominate more areas and greedily exploit their mineral resources for their selfish personal usage, including amassing of more sophisticated arms and financing their war machines to the detriment of the states and cause development somersault in troubled states by denying them revenue from war zones. War economy made African governments to lose handsome amounts of revenue that would have been channeled to national development ends. In addition, continuous fighting has killed any meaningful developmental plans, national unity, nation-building and national integration which are essential building blocks of development of state. Political conflicts and insecurity have taken many of the young one who are potential elements for national development from school to battle front as child soldiers. These are subsequently badly orientated and so become unfit to contribute meaningfully to the development of the state. For instance, while the government of Sierra Leone recorded exports of only 8,500 carats in 1998, the Diamond High Council of Belgium recorded imports of 770,000 carats from Sierra Leone, which means rebels supplied the remaining 761,500 and this translated to 1.10%while the remaining 98.89% came from the insurgents.

Debt Burden/Peonage: Political conflicts and insecurity have taken great toll on war torn state as most are unable to sufficiently raise revenue to finance the state, while insecurity prevents rosy economy, mineral resources are hijacked by the insurgents and flood the global market with such commodity because they need fund to buy arms which usually respond positively to the market forces. Excessive and uncoordinated supply of mineral resources of states under insurgency leads to fall in prices of mineral resources and foreign revenue accruing from the sales of mineral resources. Shortfalls in revenue/income when there is high demand for funds in the face of inefficient tax system, higher recurrent expenditure and fall in prices of exports made many African states to resort to external loans to prosecute war and fight insurgency as well as provide bits of critical infrastructure. This induced huge external debt that led to debt peonage. Large chunks of the states' resources are used yearly to service debts. The huge amounts devoted to debt servicing reduce the resources available and negatively affects the rate at which African states can embark on meaningful development

Improper allocation of resources: Although the destructive impact of low intensity conflicts is as devastating as that of armed-high intensity conflicts, the proportion of revenue earmarked for security in many African states is outrageous (Obasanjo, 2000). Improper/misallocation of resources affects development by limiting amounts allocated for developmental purposes and operational capacity to carry out critical development research and strategies (Arase, 2018). Consequently, misallocation of funds as a result of insecurity and political conflicts inhibits capacity of many African states to adequately fund planning for developmental purposes. Political conflicts and insecurity cause the attention of political leadership to be concentrated on equipping security operatives to combat rising waves of insecurity and prevent outright war or prosecution of wars when it has broken out in the country. Consequently, the meagre income generated by the state is committed to defense and security to the detriment of development while the left over is used for reconstruction and rehabilitation of damaged infrastructure destroyed by the war. Resources to be used in productive ventures to engineer sustainable development were at various times committed to political conflicts and insecurity. For instance, Nigeria alone spent a whopping amount of #800billion ($8 billion) in Liberia to prosecute 'Operation Liberty' from 1990-1997. In Sierra Leone, it cost Nigeria about $1 million per day to keep peace in that country (Owutu, 2011; Afegbua, 2010).

Weak Institutions: The greatest threat to development is insecurity while the greatest obstacle to development is political conflicts. On one hand, insecurity not only prevents development it destroys already established development plans and available factors that can contribute to development. On the other hand, political conflict destroys institutions needed to carry out both development plans and its implementation including source of revenue and human resource. Rampant weak and fragile political institutions in the continent make African states incapable of development that is capital intensive and long term in duration as political leaders and all apparatus of government are daily living in anxiety. The civil service is in disarray, security forces divided, political parties and elites are in conflicts, civil society is in disorder, parliament confused, judiciary inept and the overall functioning of state institutions is greatly limited. In the present time, only few African states can boast of relative peace, security, law and order. People suffer, when lawlessness spreads, when guns speak louder than reason and when development is subjugated to brute force, corruption and other evil machination, Obasanjo (2000).

Scared away investors: With over 10 million household livelihoods wiped out by war and another 25 million classified as refugees/internally displaced persons, about 5 to 10 million orphaned and numerous child-soldiers traumatized by mass violence, Africa has become an investors nightmare. Approximately 20 million landmines render vast proportions of fertile agricultural lands unproductive and prohibit free movement of persons, goods and services (Faleti cited in Owutu, 2011, p.394) thereby limiting the productive economic capacity of the state for national development. Moreover, globalization of internal insecurity in Africa from different political conflicts has caused "dispersal of terrorism" which culminated in the emergence of extremist terrorism and separatist agitation like al-Qaeda in Maghreb (AQIM) who are prepared to terrorize most African states to the point of failed state (Somalia, Libya, Congo DR, Sierra Leone) with consequential effects on other states (Arase, 2018, p.3; Thomas

& Falola, 2020). Political conflicts equally affect Africa's development by continuously increasing unemployment, mass poverty, widening social and economic inequality as displaced people in the refugee camps are perpetually placed in the 'Lazarus stratum' of society. This has prevented potential investors from investing in African states because of fear of uncertainty. Afegbua (2010) posits that as new conflicts emerged and festered, African states continued to experience instability and internal disputes over our artificial borders, the most tragic consequences are that our partners lost confidence in us as much as we lost confidence in ourselves.

Unstable polity: Political conflicts and insecurity affect Africa's development by continuous exposure of the vulnerable groups mostly the youth to violent armed struggles and rebellious acts against constituted authority that leads to loss of legitimacy and subsequently loss of sovereignty. Absence of core societal values (peace, security, jobs, foods) prompted dissatisfied citizens to withdraw their loyalties and support for the state and instead undermine the power of the state. Tafida (2018 citing McNamara, 1968) maintains that national security level of sovereign state is signpost of its direction for national development and quality of life for its population. Thus, political conflicts and insecurity is a road that leads to development somersault. Fragility of state where insecurity and political conflicts caused limited statehood which severely restricted state to a position that is unable to implement and enforce rules and decisions impinge on holistic development of a state (Risse, 2013). Meanwhile, political conflicts and insecurity has denied African states of their best form of natural resources which is human resource needed for projected consumers to purchase products produced to accelerate economic growth and development. Seteolu (2011) and Obasanjo (2000) surmised that political conflicts and insecurity create a gap where the state is incapacitated to provide essential items that would stimulate citizens' obedience to constituted authority, unity, stability needed to propel a state to prosperity and development.

Conclusion and Recommendations

From the foregoing presentations, it is evident that protracted pervasive political conflicts have induced insecurity in many African states with attendant consequences for development in the continent. An environment that is devoid of peace, security, law and order, where lawlessness, anarchy and unpredictability of human lives is the order of the day cannot attain the enviable indices of development. Although, colonialism and neo-colonialism tendencies have variously been implicated for Africa's underdevelopment, more sinister factors contributing to African underdevelopment have manifested in the form of political conflicts and widespread insecurity across the continent. In the face of all these, Africa's political elites and leaders seem to be helpless about the situations even as it continues to escalate, making it difficult for both continental and global organizations to curb. Until Africans realize the imminent danger and adverse effects of prolonged political conflicts and insecurity, work assiduously towards societal change and transformation, development will remain elusive and a wishful thinking. To stem the tide, the study recommends a quick diagnosis of the factors responsible for the outbreak and sustenance of political conflicts and insecurity in Africa. Also, African leaders must be willing to abide by the rules of democratic politics by instituting good governance and vibrant political institutions, action-centered leadership with equity and fairness in resource

allocation in a multi-ethnic state, good democratic values that abstain from imperial presidency, imparting of good political education to stimulate right political culture and development of good integrative plans. They must also imbibe the culture of tolerance and constructive discussion, political will to create synergy between academics and production, and sectorial economic linkages. African leaders and political elites also need to understands the dynamics of the military-industrial complex, war merchants and entrepreneurs of violence who are using the continent for testing efficacy of weapons, detection and perfection of weapons produced and willing market for arms and illicit drugs and war economy..

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